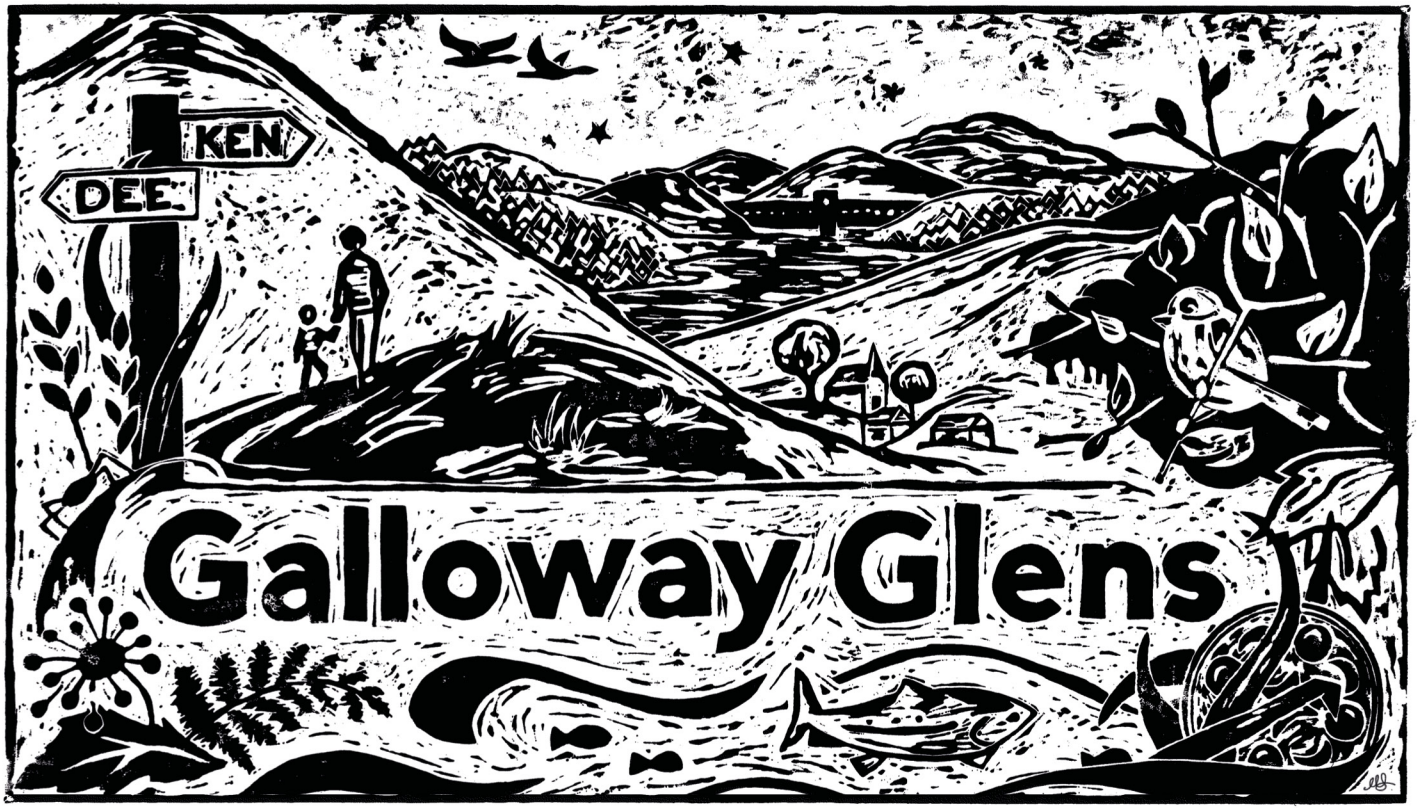

Upper Gairloch

Investigations of a deserted settlement on the Raiders Road

by Claire Williamson & Marcia Cook

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The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme: 2018 - 2023

Galloway Glens

The Galloway Glens Scheme focused on the Ken/Dee river catchment in South West Scotland, flowing from source in the Galloway Hills to the Solway, including the settlements of Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright. The Galloway Glens Scheme was an initiative of Dumfries & Galloway Council's Environment Team, and ran from 2018 to 2023, aiming to 'connect people to our heritage' while boosting the local economy and supporting sustainable communities. Primarily funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the scheme worked with a range of partners and was supported by the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

One of the projects supported through the Galloway Glens Scheme was the 'Can You Dig It' community archaeology initiative. Match funded by Historic Environment Scotland, this ran from 2019 to 2022 and included a series of talks, workshops and excavations across the Galloway Glens area. Hundreds of volunteers, including those local to the area but also with input and support from further afield, have worked with the project to uncover, reveal and better understand the secrets hidden in the Galloway landscape.

The 'Can You Dig It' project was delivered by Rathmell Archaeology and our particular thanks go to their Senior Archaeologist Claire Williamson, who has been instrumental in leading the work and creating a real enthusiasm for archaeology and heritage within the Galloway Glens area.

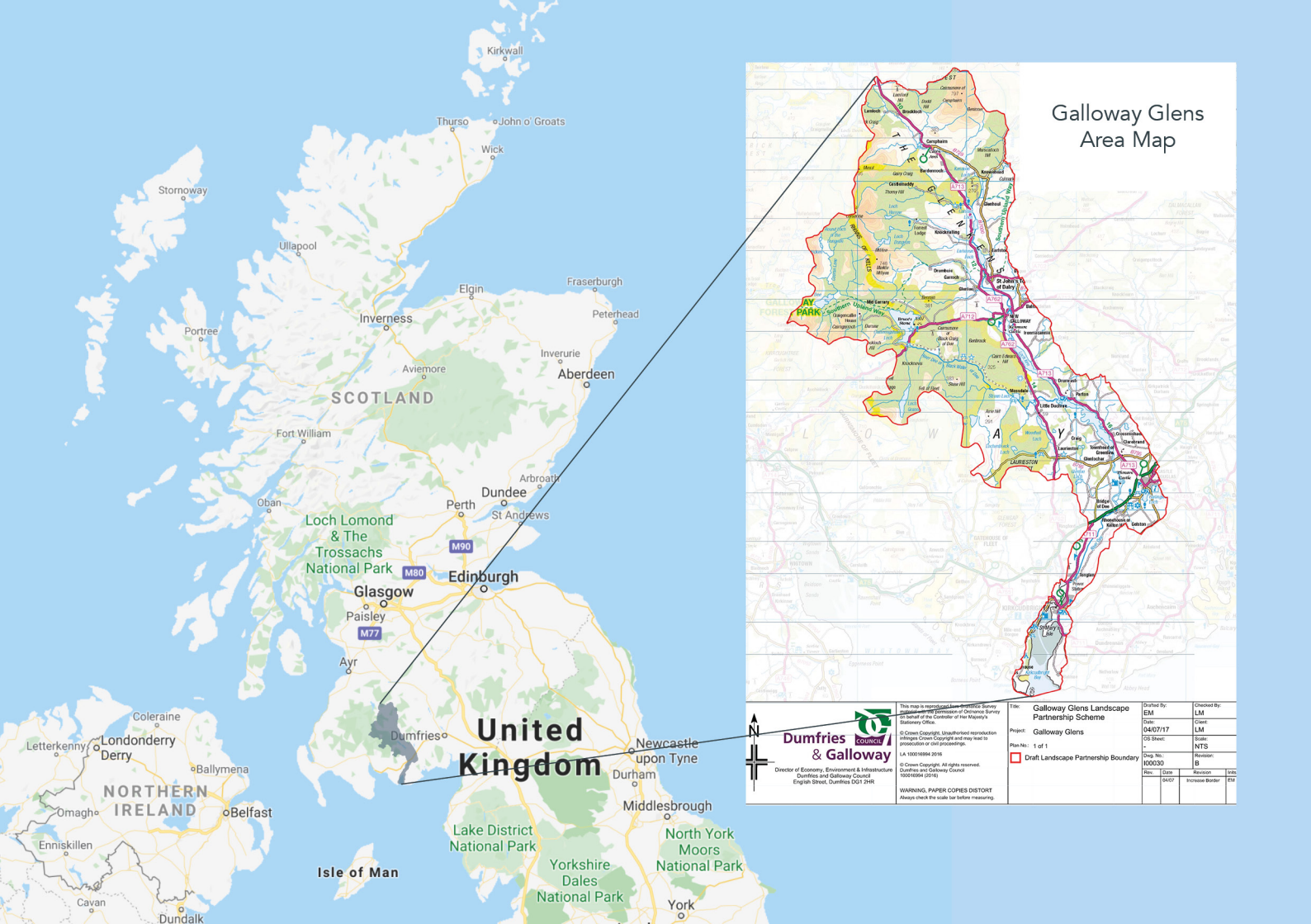
This booklet is part of a series of publications which record just some of the remarkable discoveries and projects undertaken as a result of the Galloway Glens Scheme.

The Galloway Glens Team

GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

HERITAGE FUND

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL


Kirkwall
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Galloway Glens Area Map
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Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme
Galloway Glens
Draft Landscape Partnership Boundary
Plan No.: 1 of 1
Drafted By: EM
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Date: 04/07/17
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1

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2019, a group of volunteer and professional archaeologists from 'Can You Dig It' explored the site of Upper Gairloch, a ruined 19th century farmstead on the Raiders Road in Dumfries and Galloway.

Over two weeks, the team managed to successfully clear and sample-excavate the sites of both a kiln barn and the main steading.

In doing so, they revealed the ruins of buildings that hadn't been seen in over a century. In this booklet, we set out the results of their investigations and look further into the lives of the people who once called Upper Gairloch their home.

'Can You Dig It' was a flagship project of the Galloway Glens. Running between 2019 and 2022, this community archaeology project introduced residents and visitors to the built heritage of the Galloway Glens area and passed on the technical skills needed to continue their investigations alone. Core funding for Can You Dig It came from the National Lottery Heritage Fund with match funding from Historic Environment Scotland. Land access for Upper Gairloch was granted by Forestry and Land Scotland. Our thanks to all these organisations for their support. Can You Dig It was delivered for the Galloway Glens by Rathmell Archaeology.

www.gallowayglens.org/projects/community-archaeology-programme-can-you-dig-it

@GGLPArchaeology

2

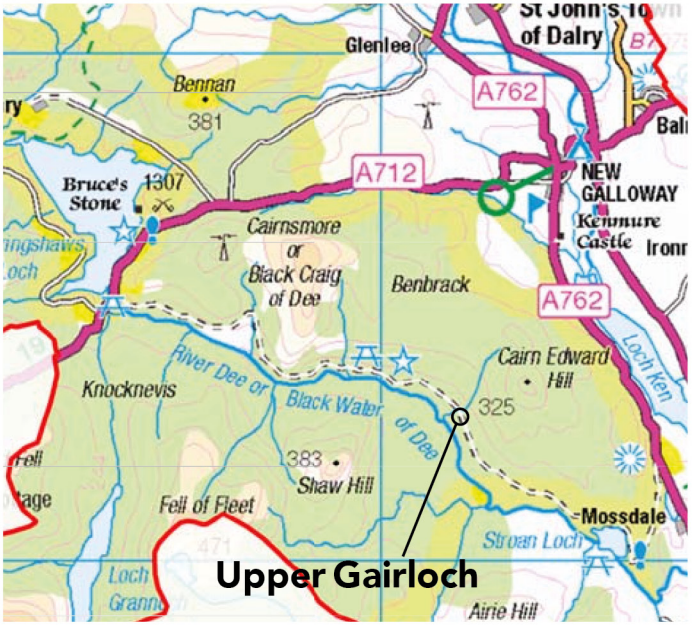
RAIDERS ROAD

This modern forest drive has long been romanticised in the imaginations of locals and visitors alike. Its name was taken from the 1894 novel 'The Raiders' by S. R. Crockett, which links the route to a past of reiving and cattle rustling. The ruins which surround it, however, began their story much earlier.

While most of the area now forms part of the Galloway Forest Park, it was once a busy farming landscape. For centuries, generations of families lived and worked on a string of neighbouring settlements along this side of the River Dee. Mapping evidence shows that these settlements date back to at least the 1600s, if not earlier, and it is this mapping that also shows their decline, with each settlement depicted as ruins by the late 19th century.

Raiders Road sits to the southwest of New Galloway, running between Clatteringshaws Loch in the northwest down to Mossdale in the southeast, and can be entered from either end in the summer months.

The ruins of Upper Gairloch sit along the southeastern half of the route, to the south of Mid Burn. The main steading sits just to the west of the road, while the kiln barn sits in trees roughly 100m to the northeast.



Hither upon this shaggy charger I had come so far in safety, and now found myself between Mossdale and the Stroan Loch pitched out upon the heather, falling almost upon a grouse cock that had heard only the blatter of a bullock's heels, and no doubt wondered where the blundering beast was coming to. 'The Raiders', S. R. Crockett

Scottish novelist Samuel Rutherford Crockett (1859-1914) was born at Little Duchrae in Balmaghie (near Mossdale). 'The Raiders' (1894) was the first of over thirty novels that he wrote set in and about Galloway.

3 THE MAPS

People have been mapping the ground and waters around us for as long as we can remember, but it's only those within the last 400 years or so that contain detailed information or, more specifically, local placenames which we can use for reference. This can be trickier the older the maps are - people's spellings (and sense of direction) have changed a lot over the centuries. But with close examination and a little patience, you can usually find what you're looking for. In the case of Upper Gairloch, it can be traced as far back as Joan Blaeu's *Atlas of Scotland*, published in 1654. Blaeu was Dutch, but his maps were derived from the work of a Scottish cartographer, Timothy Pont, who surveyed Scotland in the 1590s. Blaeu depicts a settlement named 'O. Gairlarr' (likely 'Over' Gairlarr) which sits between the settlements of 'Tanoch' and 'N. Garlar', placing it in the right spot for our steading.

In response to the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion, 21-year-old William Roy was tasked with creating his *Military Survey of Scotland*. Over the course of eight years from 1747 to 1755, Roy and his team surveyed every road, river, hill and settlement across Scotland to produce a map more detailed than any that had come before. It is in this that today's Ordnance Survey has its origins. And it is in this that we see the first layout of our farmstead – 'Upper Gareloch' appears as three buildings and two enclosures.

Extract from Joan Blaeu's *Gallovidia* 1654

Extract from William Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* 1747-55

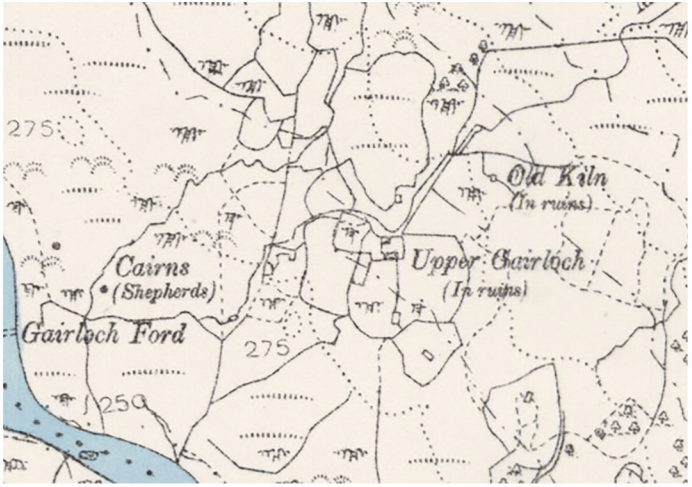
A century of advancements and changing infrastructure led to the formal establishment of the Ordnance Survey (OS), and accurate mapping of Scotland at six inches to the mile began in the 1840s.

The first editions of these maps give us our first accurate and detailed layout for the entirety of the farmstead at Upper Gairloch. In 1852, 'Upper Gairloch' is shown as two rectangular roofed structures at either end of a roughly square enclosure. Spread out from this in all directions, are the remains of several 'Old Fences', ruined buildings, 'Old Sheep Rees' and, to the northeast, our 'Old Kiln (in ruins)'. This spread of old and ruinous features suggests that our farm is perhaps smaller in scale than it once was.

Alongside the mapping, the surveyors also kept written notes in 'name books'. They collected information on the various spellings of placenames (often a source of disagreement) given by locals as well as descriptions of the sites themselves. Upper Gairloch is described as 'A farm house and out houses in bad repair with a farm of about 1300 acres of Moorland attached. The property of the heirs of the late Lord Kenmure.' Interestingly the entry also states that 'This present house is built upon the site of an old Mansion which formerly stood here.'

By the time of the revised 2nd edition OS map published in 1896 (although surveyed in 1894), Upper Gairloch is shown as 'in ruins'.

Extract from the 1st edition six-inch OS map published in 1852



Extract from the 2nd edition six-inch OS map published in 1896

4

THE SITE

With maps in hand, the team arrived on site to focus their efforts on the ruins of the kiln barn and the main steading. We were met with a mixture of moss, bracken, upstanding trees and a lot of brash! But everyone got stuck in and before long discovered just how much there was still hiding beneath.

The kiln barn was the first to be cleared – a drystone structure measuring 10.5m long by 4m wide. At the southern end, the bowl-shaped kiln survived up to seven courses (0.9m) high in places. The structure was built into a slope with the simple rectangular barn positioned behind the kiln on higher, more level, ground. In contrast to the kiln, only the lower courses of the barn walls survived although a single entrance could be seen coming in from the west.

Prior to the 18th and 19th centuries, almost every farm on mainland Scotland had its own kiln constructed from either stone or wattle (a frame of rods or stakes intertwined with twigs, reeds or branches). Kilns were a necessary step in cereal production, particularly important in cool and moist climates where they would help to dry or ripen the crop after damp harvests or short growing seasons. Other benefits of drying grain included hardening it to allow effective grinding during milling, reducing its moisture content prior to storage and making malt for brewing.

The very overgrown steading at Upper Gairloch as it looked in 2019 before the volunteers started work

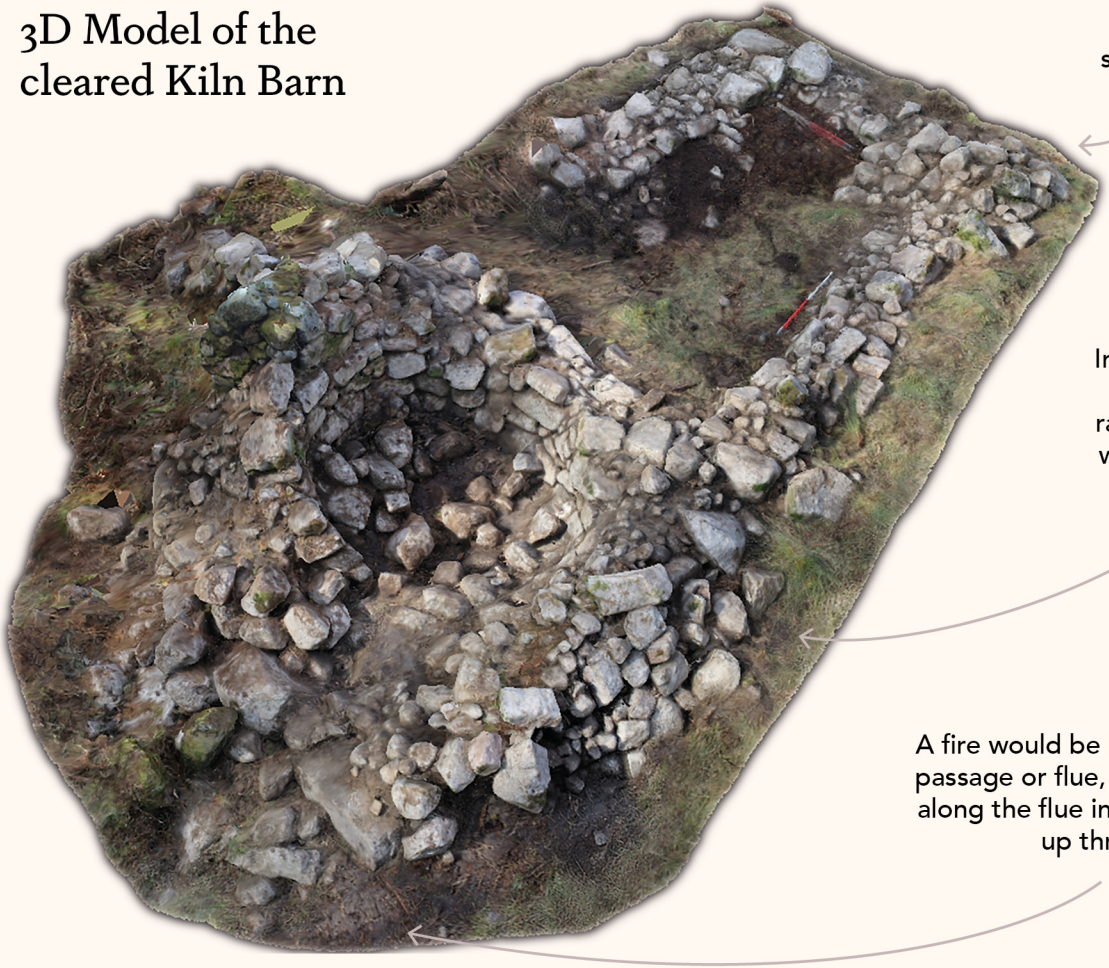
Building the kiln away from the house likely stemmed from a genuine concern at the risk of fire; indeed, the sporadic survival of farm kilns on mainland Scotland is likely due in part to the frequency with which they burned to the ground! This was also the reason that peat was traditionally used to heat the kilns, as it was less likely to spark and cause fires, although wood and chaff could also be used.

When the kiln was built, used, and finally abandoned remains uncertain, but it might well date back to the late 1700s. It's likely that the occupants built it for their own domestic use rather than operating on any commercial scale, perhaps sharing it with their neighbours. It's also uncertain which type of cereal was being dried, but oats were the most common from the 18th century. Barley may also have been included, although wheat is less likely – it was more of a luxury item for the wealthy at the time.

The bowl of the kiln still stands up to seven courses high in places

The number of private kilns later fell as mills started to erect their own common kilns. This meant that each farmer had to start taking their grain here to be dried (where they could be charged for the privilege). It is likely this shift in practice that caused the kiln at Upper Gairloch to be abandoned at an earlier stage even though the rest of the farmstead remained in use – remember that the kiln was 'in ruins' by the time of the 1st edition OS map of 1852.

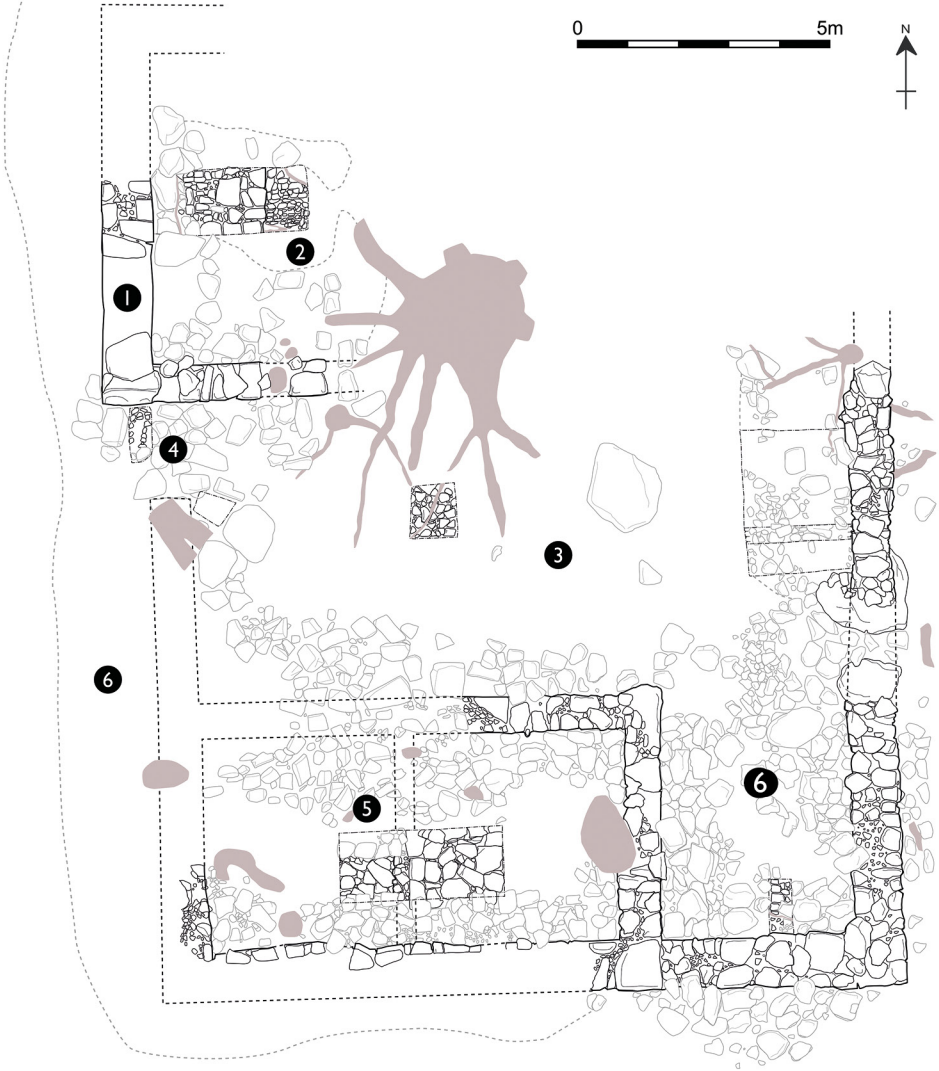
3D Model of the cleared Kiln Barn



Crops would have been stored in the barn section

In the kiln, the grain would have been laid out on a raised floor constructed of wooden or iron struts and a bedding of straw

A fire would be lit at the mouth of a small passage or flue, with the heat then drawn along the flue into the main chamber and up through the grain



A plan of the steading drawn by the Can You Dig It volunteers in 2019

Our second visit targeted the main steading to look at what survived of the farmhouse and any barns. The work revealed the remains of two buildings (numbers **2** and **5** on the plan) to either side of a central courtyard (**3**).

The entire steading covered an area that measured 17.8m by 15.5m, so roughly the same area as a tennis court (but a little shorter and a little wider).

The courtyard-style layout of the steading appears to have been created as a single construction, probably newly built in the 19th century. It might sit directly over the site of the older farm that we can see on the earlier mapping and perhaps even reused the same stone. But it's also possible that the remains of the earlier farm may still survive nearby – remember the various ruined structures shown to the south on the 1st edition OS map?

1 As with the kiln barn, the steading was also constructed of drystone walls, with facing stones placed on either side of a rubble core. The walls were up to 1m wide, and survived to a height of between 0.2m and 1m. Because only the lower courses remained, the locations of features such as windows weren't visible. Some of the stones used in the walls were huge though, measuring up to 1.3m by 1m by 0.7m in size.

2 The western end of a rectangular structure was visible in the northwest corner of the steading. Two types of flooring were revealed: a flagstone surface to the west, which then stepped down onto a cobbled surface. This suggests a division of space, perhaps relating to different functions for each type of floor. It's possible that this building was used for the upkeep or housing of some of the farm's animals.

3 The central 'L' shaped courtyard was revealed to have a cobbled surface, which was not as neatly put together as the internal floors.

4 Only one possible entrance into the steading was discernable, through the western wall running into the courtyard.

5 In the southwest, another rectangular structure was revealed, this time in its entirety. It appeared to have two chambers, both of which had a flagstone floor. The floor in the western room sat slightly lower, with a possible entrance between the two chambers at the southern end. No external entrances into the structure were visible, although one might be located in the northern wall, which is mostly obscured by tumble (**6**).

6 Tumbled stones from the walls lay across the entire site. The fact that the stone was not removed to be used elsewhere attests to the large amount of stone that must have been available in the area.

5 THE FINDS

As well as uncovering the buildings themselves, the volunteers also collected a range of artefacts from the excavation of the steading. Pottery made up the majority of the assemblage with around 500 sherds recovered.

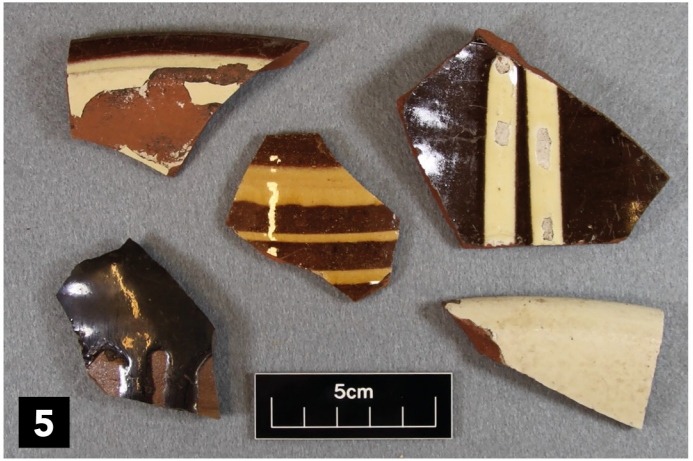
The earliest finds were two sherds of 'pearlware' teacup (c.1790s to 1820s) (**1**) and a fragment from an 'onion' wine bottle (**2** right). Onion wine bottles were produced from the late 17th century through to the early 19th century and are named as such because of their squat rounded shape. They were gradually replaced, however, by the more recognisable 'upright' wine bottle: a form that was easier to stack in greater numbers for transport and storage.

As the only items to be recovered from this earlier period, the sherds are likely to come from objects that had been carefully curated by the residents – they may well be from favoured gifts or heirlooms.

Most of the pottery recovered dated from the 1820s-1860s and included an array of sponge-decorated and hand-painted wares (**3**), transfer-printed sherds (**4** overleaf) and a small number of sherds from slipware dairy bowls and crock jars (**5** overleaf). See if you can recognise the different types of decoration as you look through the images.

The pottery found is a fairly typical example of what families were using at the time. Although the mismatched nature of the tableware could mean that the owners weren't particularly well off, it's important to remember that these are the items that were left behind – the family may well have taken the more complete sets with them to their new home.

It wasn't just pottery that was recovered. A large rasp/file and small fork (**6**) were found and could point to blacksmithing or a farrier at the site. There wasn't any evidence to suggest that this was happening on a large scale, but it is possible that they were carrying out running repairs around the farm. Maybe they used the fragment of slate stylus (**7** left) to keep notes as they worked!



The number of broken roofing slates (**7**) found across the site tells us that both buildings in the steading had slate roofs. At Upper Gairloch, the presence of both local and Welsh slates suggests that they might have been reusing older slates amongst newly imported ones - taxes on roofing slate borne by water continued to make the Welsh slates more expensive. The use of slate for roofing was more common in the later 18th century, and it spread quickly in the areas of Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Wigtown because of their sea access.

What was unusual about the fragments of chimney pots (or 'chimney cans') recovered (**8** right), was that none of them had any trace of soot on them. This might mean that they were being used for a different purpose, possibly as flower pots or for growing rhubarb.

The two stem fragments from clay tobacco pipes (**8**) were of the short-stemmed 'cutty' type, a more practical and cheaply produced style of pipe that was popular throughout much of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Slightly later in date, the spherical stopper from a 'Codd' type bottle (**8**) would have been produced sometime after 1875.

But the latest objects found were metal scraps, possibly from a 20th century farm vehicle, and some fragments of window glass that appear to post-date the 1950s. These items indicate that our steading had later become a dumping ground and that, even long after it had been abandoned as a home, the ruins of our farmstead continued to hold a place in local memory.

6

THE PEOPLE

It was in 1297 that the Gordon family acquired Kenmure Castle, and with it the lands of the Glenkens, which were to stay in the Gordon family from generation to generation. From 1667 onwards, land tax was collected, and rolls were compiled for each county listing the owners of landed estates and the rental value of their land. Upper Gairloch is first mentioned in 1682 as 'overgarlary', one of many properties belonging to the 'viscount of kenmur' – likely Alexander Gordon, the 5th Viscount. It continues to appear in land tax rolls under the name of 'Upper Garlog' and, from 1799 to 1819, is shown as belonging to 'John Gordon of Kenmore' (the 10th Viscount).

In 1801 the census began and has been repeated every tenth year, collecting information on households across the country. Across the latter part of the 19th century our steading had an ever-changing mix of residents. In the 1841 census, we can see that 'Upper Garloch' is occupied by the Halliday family. The head of the household was William Halliday, an 'Agricultural Labourer' aged 40, who lived alongside his wife, Jean, aged 25. Together they appear to have two children: Sarah aged 4 and Jean at 7 months. John Halliday, aged 80, is also listed – perhaps William's father – as well as a John Munro, aged 40. Munro is listed as 'Independent' and was perhaps just visiting or a lodger at the time.

Until the 17th century, taxation was regarded as an extraordinary source of revenue, with taxes introduced periodically on land, windows, hearths, horses, farm horses, non-working dogs, non-essential male and female servants (men were more expensive!), carriages and carts (dependent on their wheel count), and even a clock and watch tax, which varied depending on whether they were gold or silver.

These taxes have all left behind records which can be a great resource when researching the history of a site. Many are available online at the Scotland's Places website.

The Old Statistical Account from 1793 explains that households located too far from the parish school would hire boys who had been taught at public school to teach their children at home often across neighbouring households. In the 1851 census, John Brown, a 14-year-old 'Teacher', is listed at Tannoch, with the children aged 7 and up from both Tannoch and Nether Gairloch listed as scholars 'at home'. Perhaps the fragment of slate stylus recovered at Upper Gairloch shows that the children here were soon joining them too.

By the time of the 1851 census, it is the McQueens who now live at Upper Gairloch. Elizabeth McQueen, aged 36, is listed as head of the household with her three children: Alexander, aged 7; John, aged 6; and Margaret, aged 4. Elizabeth's husband is not listed so appears to have been away from home at the time.

The land tax rolls of 1859-60 record James Smith, Farmer, as 'Tenant or Occupier' of Upper Gairloch but, with the column 'Inhabitant Occupier' left blank, it's possible that James was not actually living on the farm itself.

Upper Gairloch appears again in the census of 1871 as the home of shepherd Neil Milroy, aged 40, his wife Eglinton, aged 42, and their five children: Margaret, 14; William, 12; Agnes, 9; Grace, 6; and Neil, 4. Their 13-year-old niece-in-law, Mary Chisholm, also lives there. By the time of the 1878-79 land tax rolls, however, our farm is listed alongside 'Nether Garloch and Clauchrum' under one tenant/occupier: James Gray.

It is difficult to know the exact cause for our farm's eventual abandonment, although it was certainly not alone. By the time of the 1896 map, most of the farmsteads along this route had been abandoned. The reasons for this will vary, but it is likely that the knock-on effects of the 'Improvement Era' played their part. As well as the general upheaval, smaller farms were being amalgamated and their land turned over to sheep grazing. We can see this reflected in the archives - by the time of the land tax rolls of 1887-88 a shepherd named William Little has moved into the house at Nether Gairloch, and after 1889, Upper and Nether Gairloch were being let as a joint holding of around 2,255 acres.

The final change came in the 1940s, when the area became part of some 240 square miles of land to be designated as Galloway Forest Park. The land of our farm and its neighbours fell under the care of the Forestry Commission (now Forestry and Land Scotland), which remains the case to this day.

Sheep farming would have been a significant part of Upper Gairloch's history. Both the Old and New Statistical Accounts list the number of sheep in Kells parish as being just over 17,000, compared with around 1,500 cattle. Other livestock may have included cattle or pigs.

The Improvement Era was a period of countrywide change in the practices of farming and agriculture, which mostly occurred throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Extensive programmes of drainage and enclosure were developed, and the courtyard farm introduced – a standardised layout aimed at improving efficiency. There was also a significant shift from farms being worked by groups of tenant families towards a single-family unit. These improvements had some negative effects; they resulted in higher rents and several evictions, creating a period of upheaval that forced many to leave their rural homes and look for employment elsewhere.

7

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR HERITAGE

Now it's time to **have some fun with your heritage!** In the next few pages you can find activities and ideas to explore this wonderful site further with learners of all ages. We ask some questions and suggest things to do. Finding the answers and completing the tasks will allow you to step right back into the past.

There is a suggested order for the activities exploring Upper Gairloch but you don't have to stick to it. Do what suits you best. Sections can be attempted in whichever order you wish. Activities can be stand-alone, considered all at once or in parts, or just skip straight to the ones that interest you the most.

Throughout the activities you will find different resources mentioned. For those shown in ***bold italics***, the weblinks are all listed on the last page.

If you'd like to share what you have discovered or created, we'd really love to hear from you. Post your findings, ideas and creations on our social media using the tag **#GallowayGlens**

Are you ready for the challenge?

Will you:

Act like an Archaeologist:
Investigate, Record, Examine and then Share your results?

Things to investigate before you visit

My life on the farm:

What were the jobs around the home and farmstead that you might be involved with? Make a daily chore list for yourself. Which work would you enjoy the most? What time do you think you would start in the morning? Remember the slate pencil. Did it belong to the farmer, or would there be lessons for you as well as chores?

What's for breakfast in 1840?

The National Library of Scotland can tell you more about Food in Scotland during the 1700s and 1800s - **digital.nls.uk/learning/scottish-food-history**
Try making a brose for breakfast; is it tasty?

Children that lived on the farm would have been working and helping out from at least six years old. There was always something to do, from gathering wood to bringing in water. They had to look after livestock, tend to the horse and learn to grow and harvest crops, or wash clothes and help run the household. It was hard work and every member of the family worked long hours together.

Imagining past lives: Get creative writing stories...

What tales could 80-year-old John Halliday, born in 1761, tell us about his life? World events like the American wars of independence and French revolutions happened, new machines, transport and farming methods were invented. There were changes to the way people thought and wrote about the world, called the Scottish Enlightenment. Lots of changes but would they have affected John? Did he always live on the farm? Try creating a story John would share with his family.

•••

There is a young teacher, John Brown, living nearby at Tannoch in 1851, educating the local farm children. How did he feel about teaching others only a few years younger? Perhaps he would write letters home to his parents. What would he say? What did his pupils think of him?

•••

Elizabeth McQueen is in charge of the farm in March 1851. Spring is busy; it is time to clean the winter dirt and soot - everything in every room is scrubbed, washed and refreshed. The kitchen garden and grain crops need to be planted to feed the family through the year. Animals move outside to new grazing. Their barns are mucked out and manure spread on the fields. Elizabeth would have to organise these jobs and more, doing much of the work herself while still caring for her three young children. What would Elizabeth write about if she kept a diary?

•••

If you prefer, draw your story, perhaps as a cartoon, or collect pictures of objects, places and people from the time and video yourself speaking about your ideas. ***Canmore*** and the ***Future Museum*** have images and information about life in the 1850s and before.

Things you can do while you visit

Make a site visit record:

You can record your thoughts about your time at the site by creating notes of your visit. Take along a notebook and pencils. Jot down words about your experiences and feelings while you approach the site and while you are on-site. What can you see? Write about it and take some photographs. Is there anything threatening or damaging the site and does it come from nature or human activity? Sketches of what you see are great to include. Remember to include a 'north' arrow as this will allow you to match up your sketch to a map later.

What's the weather like? Have you come to visit on a fine, dry day? Include these observations in your record. Can you imagine being here in the winter snows, or with high winds and rain lashing the farm buildings?

Farm life never stops during the hours of daylight. Animals will need to be looked after every day and work in the fields will not stop for wet, dreich weather. Make a video diary or record yourself speaking about what you can see when you are there. The notes and recordings will become a first-hand record of your time at the site or, as an archaeologist would call it, fieldwork notes or a site investigation record that you can refer back to whenever you want to.

You could show this record to family or friends / classmates back home. ***Outdoor Archaeological Learning*** from Forestry and Land Scotland has lots of ideas for fun ways to present your field notes, such as posters and news reports.

Part of the job of archaeologists is to examine and study as many sources of information about a site as they can. This includes excavations as well as documentary sources.

Once all the information is gathered, it is thought about, analysed and an interpretation or best explanation of what this evidence shows is produced. It is always good to think about the evidence and revisit / criticique it.

Do you agree with the archaeologist's interpretation of the farmstead?
Has your site investigation turned up any new information?

Match your visit record to the site:

A survey and excavations took place here in 2019. Before these could begin, the volunteers and archaeologists cleared away the grass, moss, bracken, fallen branches and young trees that were growing in and around the drystone walls (walls built by placing stone directly on stone, without using mortar). Use the pictures from before the project started, here and on **page 5**, to see how much nature has begun to cover and hide the stone walls again. Add this information to your site visit record.

Use the survey and excavation plan on **page 8** that shows where the 2019 archaeology work was carried out and what they found, to identify walls and outlines of the farm buildings. Is it all a jumble of stones? You should be able to work out which stone is which on the plan and match it to what you see in front of you. You won't be able to see where the trench excavations were though, as any soil taken out was replaced at the end of the dig. Can you find the kiln barn site, further off in the woods?

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Remember that when you are outdoors, the environment around you can cause problems for yourself and others if you do not act sensibly and respectfully. The Scottish Outdoor Access code says that you should:

• Respect the interests of other people • Care for the environment
• Take responsibility for your own actions.

Follow these points to ensure you have a happy and safe site visit. It is also important to care for your heritage. Be careful around ruined site structures - look but don't disturb so that they can be enjoyed by generations to come.

www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/your-access-rights

Things you can do after your visit

Recording oral history:

Try to record some of your own oral history or interview a family member, friend or teacher about their childhood and what they remember being different back then. Maybe they were brought up in a rural setting and can tell you all about the countryside farming practices from their childhood. Or perhaps they remember a time before there was a lot of the technology that helps us to live today? They may know a local song, story or tradition from where they grew up that is not practiced anymore. Could they sing it for you?

Your recordings of stories won't be as old as those from the families living at Upper Gairloch in the 1840s or 1850s but they will be equally fascinating and will be of interest to people now and in the future. By recording these memories, whether in written or spoken form, you are collecting an oral history that preserves a piece of the past and reveals the hidden history of real lives.

Think about the questions you could ask before you start; perhaps begin with "Tell me about…" or "What was it like when…". Make sure the people involved are happy to join in, and ask their permission to share the stories they give you. There are video clips on the BBC Bitesize website that could help you with interview techniques and the sort of questions to use - search for 'How to interview people'.

Oral History is the recording of people's memories, experiences, thoughts and opinions. Everybody's history is unique and important but often in the past it was only the experiences of key people that were recorded. We have lost the personal histories of the Halliday family because they weren't written down. We can only work out little insights about them and their lives through the information in historic documents that survive and through exploring where they used to live.

Reconstructing the past:

We have a great plan of the buildings found at Upper Gairloch, made using archaeological survey techniques. We also have 3D models of the buildings, created from many, many photographs all put together to produce a computer-based, three-dimensional model that you can move about and view from different angles - see **sketchfab.com/GGLPArchaeology**

Make a reconstruction drawing:

Photography had been invented by 1840 but we don't have any pictures that survive of Upper Gairloch. Can you imagine what the buildings may have looked like before they fell into ruins? Using the survey plan on **page 8**, the information in this booklet and all your own

field observations, you could create a reconstruction drawing of the farm at the time the Hallidays lived there.

For more inspiration, you could visit buildings from around a similar time that survive in the main street of St John's Town of Dalry or Carsphairn or in your local area. Some photo images of these are available in ***Canmore*** or you could take a virtual walk down the street using online map services such as Google Earth.

Remember to sketch in windows and doors. What was in the courtyard? Are there any people about? How do you think the buildings were roofed? Did they all have slates of the type found in the 2019 excavations? You will find some tips for creating reconstruction drawings in ***Outdoor Archaeological Learning.***

Kiln barn comes to life:

Make a reconstructed model of the kiln barn as you imagine it might have looked when it was being used before 1852. Clay, Kinetic Sand or clean recycling are all good materials to create your model. Remember to take pictures during your build and of the finished result. Use the 2019 kiln barn 3D model on **page 7** to see the barn's outline shape and where the main parts of the drystone building are. Have you spotted that one end is higher than the other? Search ***Canmore*** or ***Scran*** for kiln barns and corn-drying kilns if you want to get more ideas before starting to build. What is a kiln barn used for?

Can you think of two reasons why this would be useful on the farm? Try **pages 5 and 6** for ideas. Have a look at Rothiemay Castle Kiln Barn for a picture of a very grand example – ***Canmore*** Site ID 214331.

Museum matters:

Take a trip to local museums in the Galloway Glens area or at home. Have a look to see how many artefacts (objects from the past) on display are connected with farming. Or use the ***Future Museum*** website to enter search words related to farming life. Can you find an example of a whole crock pot (a large jar or dish used for processing food or holding liquids)? What were scythes and ploughs made from?

There are also preserved examples of historic buildings from around the same time you could look at online:

- Souter Johnnies cottage from 1785, National Trust for Scotland **www.nts.org.uk**
- Ferm-toun of Auchindrain in Argyll **www.auchindrain.org.uk**
- Baile Gean township at the Highland Folk Museum **www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum**

8 NUHIN NEW UNNER THE SUN

The Dig It! project is a hub for Scottish archaeology. They source and promote the best events and stories from across the country for everyone to enjoy.

In 2021, Dig It! commissioned Mae Diansangu to write a poem inspired by our work at Upper Gairloch. Wanting to showcase a fresh perspective on Scotland's past, the poem was released to coincide with StAnza, Scotland's International Poetry Festival.

Diansangu was inspired by the festival's theme of 'Make it New'. They used the site to reflect on the similarities between people today and people in the past who shared some of the same wants, anxieties and experiences across the centuries.

The Dig It! project is coordinated by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and primarily funded by Historic Environment Scotland.

nuhin new unner the sun
by Mae Diansangu

we'll nivver ken, jist
foo mony
tales
are scrieved
a'neeth the
clay

the mud is thick
wi fit's bin tint:
stories only haulf telt;
wirds an warlds,
tashed an torn by time;
mockit scraps fae past
lives
aa that wis scrat wi
sklate,
swallad up
by the wither,
so fan folk gather
up
the fragmentit hale
aats bin left,

nothing new under the sun
by Mae Diansangu

we'll never know, just
how many
tales
are written
beneath the
clay

the mud is thick
with what's been lost:
stories only half told;
words and worlds,
ripped up by time;
filthy scraps from past
lives
everything that was scratched with
slate
swallowed up
by the weather,
so when people gather
up
the fragmented whole
that's been left,

they've tae guess
fit haun wis huddin it
the memry o a mither
stravaigs
doon Raider's
Road,
it settles like a smirr,
queart an saft ,
amon the shrapnel
fae the past

here wis a wifey
fit played the manny
o the hoose
een pair o hauns
tae mak
a guid man's toil
intae
her ane

the very same pair
fit wid
skelp,
claethe
an bathe
three bairns
ower late

they've to guess
what hand was holding it
the memory of a mother
strolls
down Raider's
Road,
it settles like a fine drizzle,
quiet and soft,
among the shrapnel
of the past

here was a women
who played the man
of the house
one pair of hands
to make
a husband's toil
into
her own

the very same pair
that would
spank,
clothe
and bathe
three children
too late

tae ask her,
fit her hert wid git sair fur
an fit wid pit a glint
in her een
ower late
tae ask her,
fit wye she'd bin leftil
look aifter the hamesteed
alane

the livin hae a habit
o screivin ontae
the deid,
an we cry this act:
historical fact
        but we ca truly
                spik,
fur the
speechless

especially fan we tak
the stories o the day
wi favour the maist
an pint the past
                wi them
 so we can mak on

to ask her,
what her heart would get sore for
and what would put a glint
in her eye
too late
to ask her,
why she'd bin left to
look after the home
by herself

the living have a habit
of writing over
the deid,
an act we call:
historical fact
        but we can't truly
                speak,
for the
speechless

especially when we take
the stories from today
we favour the most
and paint the past
                with them
 so we can pretend like

fitiver folks we
canna thole,
jist didnae exist
back then
it's a sair fecht,
footerin aboot
        aul bones
fur the truth
neentheless,

dubbit finngurs

dee their best
tae mak
                sense
                o aa the
guddle
an the
rubble,
        as they unpick
the weel twistit
threid o' time
aat scowps
                unnergroon
fur those o us
fit bide aboon
the soil —

whichever groups we
can't abide,
just didn't exist
back then
it's a tough job,
messing around with
old bones
for the truth
nonetheless,

muddy fingers

do their best
to make
sense
of all the
mess
and the
rubble,
as they unpick
the well twisted
thread of time
that runs, hither and thither
underground
for those of us
that live above
the soil —

a puckle bitties
o a tassie,
fit wis blethered
intae,

lang teemt o it's
secrets
an
beddit
in the grun

minds us tae dig
deep
an learn fit's
unnerneath

wir ane skin

mebbe there's nuhin new
unner the sun
mebbe wir the same
as wiv aywis
bin

a handful of pieces
from a cup,
that was nattered and chatted
into,

long emptied of its
secrets
and
bedded
in the ground

reminds us to dig
deep
and learn what's
underneath

our own skin

maybe there's nothing new
under the sun
maybe we're the same
as we've always
been

9 A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

The Can You Dig It project, which included a series of talks, workshops and excavations, was offered free to volunteers thanks to generous funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. The land is owned by Forestry and Land Scotland, who kindly allowed access as well as giving their support and guidance. Guidance was also given by Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service and members of local heritage societies.

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10 RESOURCES

A final thank you to everyone involved in making the resources listed below publicly available.

Canmore's searchable database contains over 320,000 records for archaeological sites, buildings, industry and maritime heritage across Scotland
canmore.org.uk

The recently digitised ***Carsphairn Archive*** contains numerous documents, slides and photographs relevant to the local area
www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive

The ***1841 Scottish Census*** can be found at FreeCEN
www.freecen.org.uk

The ***1851 Scottish Census*** has been made available on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website
info.dumgal.gov.uk/HistoricalIndexes

Dig It! is a hub for Scottish archaeology where you can look for volunteering opportunities in your area and read about the latest discoveries
www.digitscotland.com

Head to the ***Forestry and Land Scotland*** website for information on trees, wildlife and heritage in the forests of Scotland. Find out the archaeological sites you can visit and download learning resources, activity sheets and much more
forestryandland.gov.scot/learn

Future Museum provides online access to the museum collections of Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway. Searchable digital records and themes based around people, industry and arts from the southwest of Scotland
www.futuremuseum.co.uk

You can look through historical mapping online with the ***National Library of Scotland***
maps.nls.uk

Outdoor Archaeological Learning can be found at
forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/conservation/historic-environment-conservation

Pastmap features an interactive map on which you can zoom into any area within Scotland and view all the heritage sites that have been discovered there with links to more information
pastmap.org.uk

Land tax rolls and the Ordnance Survey name books can be found on ***Scotland's Places***
scotlandsplaces.gov.uk

Scran is an online learning resource with thousands of images and media from museums, archives, newspapers and galleries
www.scran.ac.uk

The ***Statistical Accounts of Scotland*** have been made available online by the University of Edinburgh
stataccscot.edina.ac.uk

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Landscape Partnership

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by Claire Williamson & Marcia Cook

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